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The global WUI

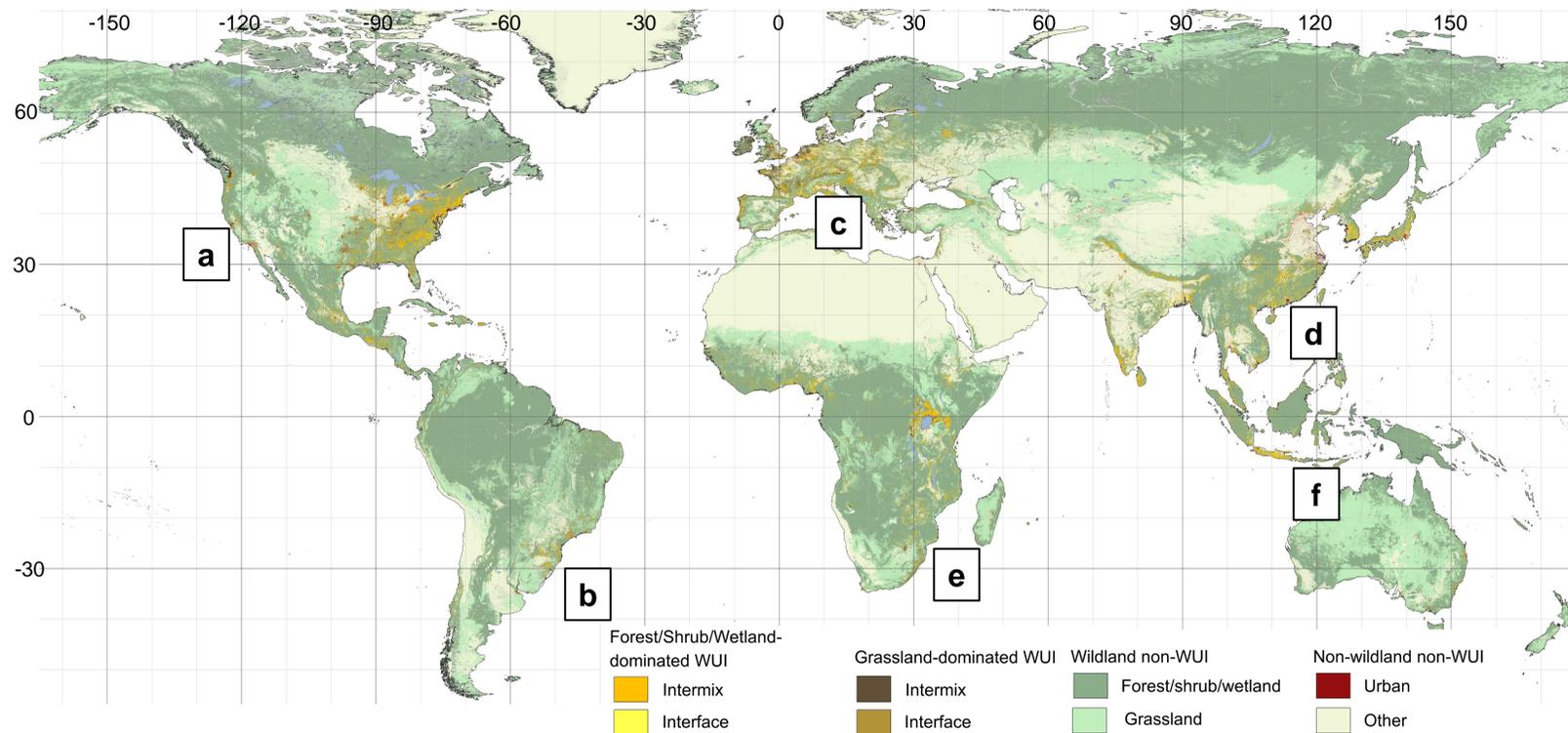
- The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is where houses and wildland vegetation meet or intermingle
- Zone of environmental conflicts, including wildfire problems
- Global 10-m WUI map based on building density (GHSL) and vegetation (Worldcover)
- Threshold-based analysis to map intermix and interface WUI

Explore the interactive webmap!

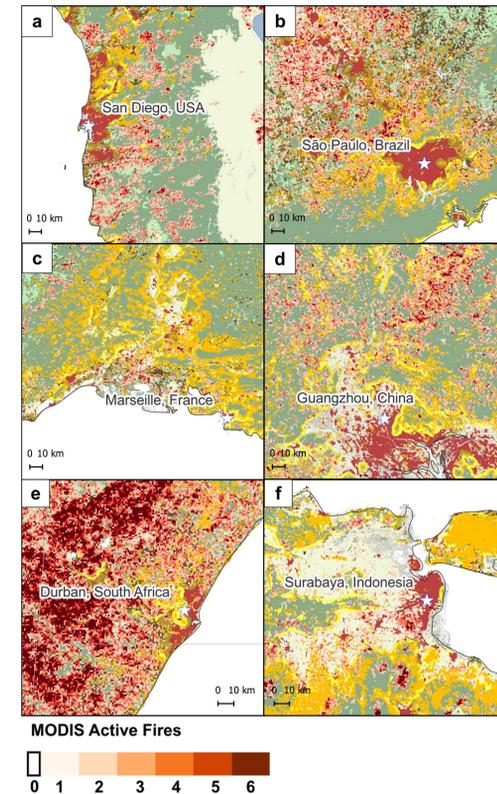
How good is the map (.xls)?

See the mapping workflow.

The global wildland-urban interface: 5% of Land Area, 50% of Population



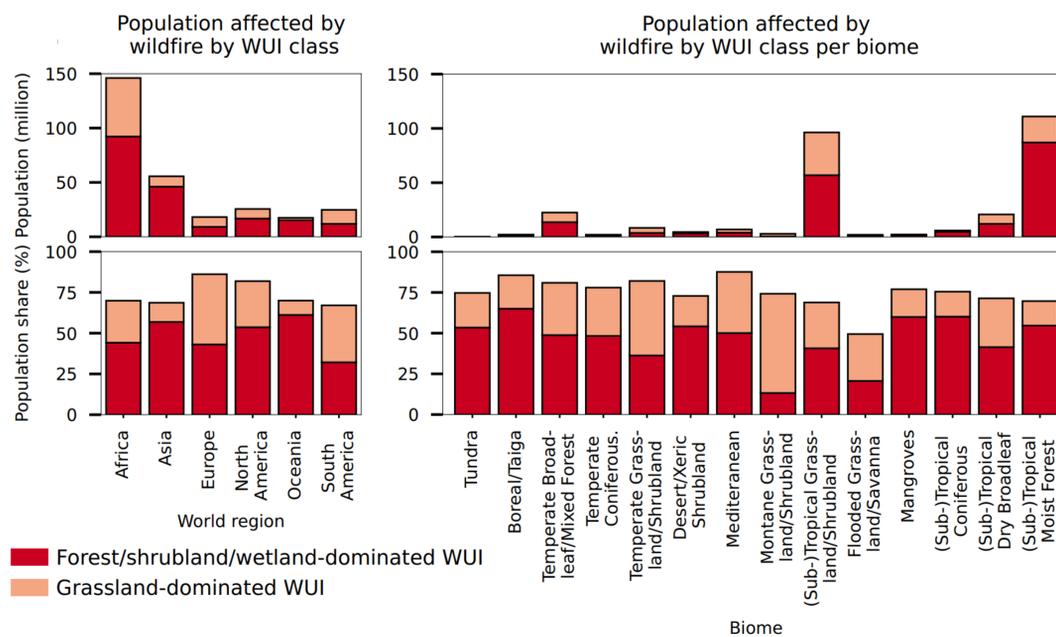
Intermix vs. Interface



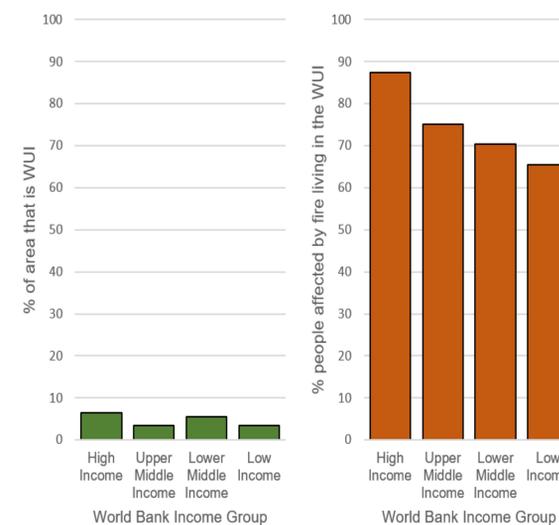
Wildfire

- MODIS (2003-'20) and VIIRS (2013-'20) Active Fires to assess area affected by fire
- Masked agricultural fires and other non-wildland fires (e.g., gas flares)
- 4% of global active fires (MODIS 2003-'20) in the WUI. In Europe, 14% of fires in WUI, USA: 11%, China: 10%, India: 7%, S. Africa: 14%, Portugal: 35%.

Most wildfires are outside of the WUI. Most people affected by wildfire live within the WUI. Some continents and biomes particularly affected.



WUI wildfire is common in both more and less wealthy countries.



Between 3 and 7% of area is WUI in high- to low-income countries. Between 65 and 90% of people affected by fire live in the WUI there.

Conclusion

- The WUI occurs in all continents, but is regionally concentrated.
- Half the global population is potential affected by human-environmental conflict in WUI.
- Wildfire is a threat to buildings and lives in the WUI.
- WUI fire hazard affects all biomes, especially those dominated by grassland and forest.
- Many fires already where climate change may increase fire risk further in WUI areas.



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